

February 24, 2015

**Testimony in support of House Bill 5780 An Act Legalizing Industrial Hemp**

Dear Chair Senator Leone, Chair Representative Baram; Vice Chairs Senator Larson, Representative Kiner; Ranking members Senator Witkos and Representative Carter and esteemed members of the Committee.

My name is Colleen Sauvé, and I serve as the National Outreach Coordinator of Vote Hemp, the nation's single-issue non-profit dedicated to industrial hemp.

I am so happy to learn about the proposed industrial hemp legislation in Connecticut. To date, Twenty-two (22) other states have also introduced either new legislation in accordance with SEC 7606 of the American Agricultural Act of 2014 or are amending current laws to develop licensing programs under their state Dept. of Agriculture.

The marketing research portion of the Farm Bill is incredibly important to help further progressive legislation. Thereby, allowing private growers to become licensed by their Dept. of Agriculture, which can provide funding to the department and allow them to benefit from program as well. The third-party farmer opportunity is critical since there is no federal funding being offered to universities for research at this time. We warn that developing laws restrictive to universities may further delay progress due to lack of funding.

Recently, we coordinated with Missouri legislators to assist them in the process of developing their language. We shared with them the legislation that we worked on in the state of Tennessee, where I live.

If it may be of help, please review the following:

Link to Tennessee's

law: <http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/regulatory/industrialhemp.pdf>

**The TN Dept. of Ag developed this committee to assist in the promulgation of Rules & Regs:**

University of Tennessee - Bill Brown, Professor

University of Tennessee - Neal Steward, Professor

Middle Tennessee State University - Warren Gill, Plant & Soil Sciences Dept. Chairman

TN Crop Improvement Association - Matthew Young, Executive Director

TN Farm Bureau Federation - Joe Pearson

TN Hemp Industries Association - Colleen Sauvé, Founder

TN Dept. of Ag - Jimmy Hopper, Assistant Commissioner  
TN Dept. of Ag - Boyd Barker, Director of Special Projects  
TN Dept. of Ag - Carol Coley McDonald  
TN Dept. of Ag - Gray Haun, Plant Inspector  
TN Dept. of Ag - David Waddell, Administrative Manager  
TN Dept. of Ag - Randy Jennings, Director of Programs Operations  
TN Dept. of Ag - Jay Miller, Counsel  
TN Dept. of Ag - Tom Wommack, Policy Director  
Governor's Office - Warren Wells, staff  
TN Bureau of Investigation - Jay Barnes, Special Agent

Here are the FINAL rules & regulations that were developed in  
Tennessee: [http://tn.gov/sos/rules\\_filings/01-06-15.pdf](http://tn.gov/sos/rules_filings/01-06-15.pdf)

Thank you for your time, and if I can be of any help to the General Law  
Committee on moving this Bill 5780 forward please do not hesitate to  
contact me. I look forward to learn more about progress in Connecticut.

Best,

Colleen Sauvé  
*National Outreach Coordinator, Vote Hemp*  
[931.607.4167](tel:931.607.4167) | [707.874.3648](tel:707.874.3648) ext: 2  
[votehemp.com](http://votehemp.com) | [FB](#) | [twitter](#)

**>>>TAKE ACTION NOW<<<**

Learn more about hemp, please visit:  
[TheHia.org](http://TheHia.org) and [HempHistoryWeek.com](http://HempHistoryWeek.com)